THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION
NINETY-NINTH
ANNUAL REPORT
1985

ONTARIO'S
NIAGARA
PARKS

centennial
1885–1985

86-04472/

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

Ontario 1885–1985

The Niagara Parks Commission Aims and Objectives

On March 30, 1885, the Ontario Legislature passed the Niagara Falls Park Act which provided for the formation of The Niagara Parks Commission.

From that time The Niagara Parks Commission has had a unique and exciting history. Originally only 62.2 hectares (154 acres), the Park now encompasses slightly more than 1130 hectares (2800 acres) along the 56 kilometres (35 miles) of the Niagara River. Included in this system today are historic sites, golf courses, a marina, picnic areas, restaurants, gift shops, horticultural gardens and school, significant natural areas and many scenic attractions.

The Commission's goals are as follows:

1. To maintain, preserve and enhance the beauty and surroundings of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls and the Niagara River, from Fort Erie to Niagara-on-the-Lake.
2. To develop, operate and maintain a system of park and recreation areas, historic sites and educational facilities which complement the natural wonders of the Niagara Falls and the Niagara River, and which will facilitate and add to the visitor's enjoyment.
3. To provide those wishing to view and enjoy the splendor of Niagara Falls an opportunity to do so with ease.
4. To provide a broad range of educational opportunities for people in the fields of horticulture, geology, natural history, and the history of the Niagara Frontier.
5. To continually seek new methods and means for improving the visitor's experience when visiting the Falls area.
6. To encourage complementary uses of lands adjacent to the Parks System, and to work with other groups and agencies who have compatible interests in the Park area.
7. To insure a suitable first and/or last impression for the many millions of visitors to Ontario and Canada crossing the borders along the Niagara Frontier.
8. To encourage and promote the development of the tourism industry in Ontario and Canada.
9. To pursue the self-sustaining nature of the Parks System while recognizing the limitations of compatible and suitable revenue-producing facilities and the long range need for capital improvements.

The present Niagara Parks Commission is continuing the policy of Commissions of former years, namely a dedication to carry out a program of preservation, restoration, commemoration, beautification and attraction for the enjoyment of the millions of yearly park visitors from all over the world.

The Commission reports to the Legislature through the Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

Cover Photo:
Niagara Parks Centennial Logo

Commissioners

James N. Allan, Chairman
Dunnville

Archie Katzman, Vice Chairman
St. Catharines

Barbara A. Boyer
Fort Erie

Harry J. Daniel, Q.C.
St. Catharines

Wilbert N. Dick
Niagara-on-the-Lake

John Holer
Niagara Falls

Heinz K. Hummel
Fort Erie

William J. Marshall
St. Catharines

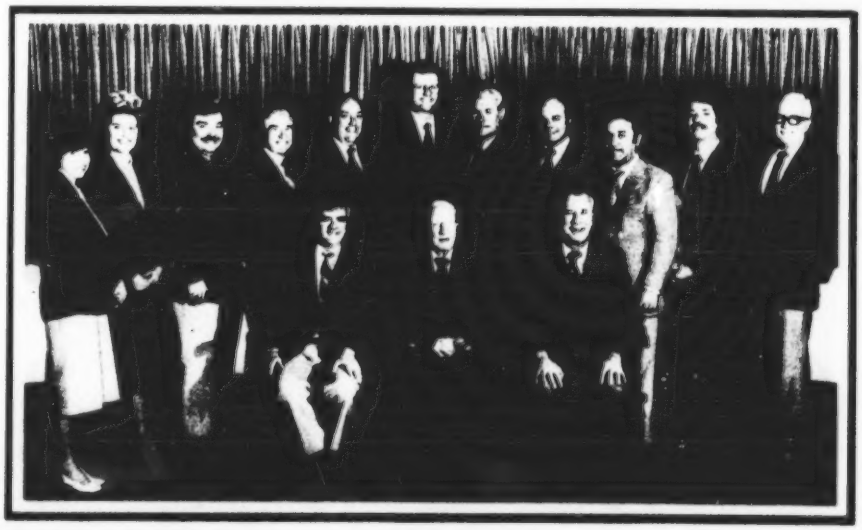
Brian E. Merrett
Niagara Falls

Alice J. Pietz
Welland

Brian N. Sinclair, Q.C.
Niagara Falls

William C. West, Q.C.
Hamilton

Donald R. Wilson
General Manager and Secretary

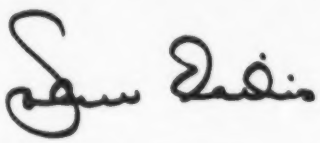


Members of The Niagara Parks Commission as of October 31, 1985
Back row left to right: Barbara A. Boyer, Alice J. Pietz, Brian E. Merrett, William J. Marshall, Harry J. Daniel, Q.C., Heinz K. Hummel, Wilbert N. Dick, Brian N. Sinclair, Q.C., John Holer, William C. West, Q.C. and A.F. Sheppard, Q.C. (Commission Solicitor).
Front row left to right: Archie Katzman, Vice Chairman, James N. Allan, Chairman, Donald R. Wilson, Secretary and General Manager.

The Honourable
Lincoln M. Alexander, P.C., Q.C., K. St.J., B.A.
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario

May It Please Your Honour:

The undersigned respectfully
presents the annual report of
The Niagara Parks Commission for
the fiscal year ended October 31, 1985.



Honourable John Eakins
Minister of Tourism and Recreation

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

Ontario 1885–1985

CONTENTS

Aims & Objectives ..... Inside Front Cover
List of Commissioners ..... Inside Front Cover
Chairman's Foreword ..... Page 3
Centennial Celebrations ..... Pages 4, 5 & 6
Weather & Attendance ..... Pages 7, 8 & 9
Engineering Department ..... Page 9
Capital Construction ..... Pages 9 & 10
Maintenance, Planning & Property ..... Page 10
Statement of Capital Expenditure ..... Page 11
Attractions & Retail Operations Department ..... Pages 12 & 13
Food Services Department & Golf Courses ..... Page 13
Historic Sites, Police Department & Safety ..... Page 14
Horticulture Department ..... Pages 14, 15 & 16
School of Horticulture ..... Pages 17 & 18
Personnel Department ..... Pages 18 & 19
Public Relations ..... Pages 19 & 20
Auditors's Report & Index to Financial Statements ..... Page 21
Financial Statements ..... Pages 22-26

To the Honourable John Eakins, Minister of Tourism and Recreation:

I take pleasure in submitting herewith the Ninety-ninth Annual Report of The Niagara Parks Commission covering the fiscal year ending October 31, 1985.

The policies of the Commission are directed by a 12 member Commission consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and 10 Commissioners.

Kenneth R. Green, a provincial representative from Simcoe, ended his term on June 8, 1985 after serving the Commission faithfully for nine years. Provincial representative from Hamilton, Albin R. Rogala's term also expired on July 13, 1985. Mr. Rogala had been on the Commission since July 14, 1979. There were four municipal members re-appointed to the Commission on December 1, 1984. They were William J. Marshall as Regional Niagara representative; Wilbert N. Dick as Niagara-on-the-Lake representative; Brian E. Merrett representing the City of Niagara Falls; and Heinz K. Hummel the Town of Fort Erie. Their re-appointments are until November 30, 1985. On June 9, 1985, William C. West, Q.C. of Hamilton was appointed as a new provincial representative until June 8, 1988. John Holer of Niagara Falls also joined the Commission as a new provincial appointee and I was honoured to be re-appointed as Chairman.

It was on March 30, 1885 that the Ontario Legislature passed The Niagara Falls Park Act which provided for the establishment of The Niagara Parks Commission . In 1985 the Commission celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the signing of this act. And what a great year-long celebration it was! There was a special Centennial Dinner on March 30, a well attended birthday party and picnic in June, the introduction of a new Niagara Parks History book, a film and numerous other events. One of the greatest accomplishments was the introduction of our much awaited People Mover System. All of these are mentioned in detail later in this report.

James N. Allan, Chairman of The Niagara Parks Commission.

The Niagara Parks Commission once again experienced a good year financially with a net profit of more than $3.6 million. Revenue producing facilities within the Park realized an increase in gross receipts of 10.3 percent over 1984.

For 100 years, members of past and present Commissions have been faithful in upholding the mandate of the founding principle to preserve the natural integrity of the Parkland, while at the same time maintaining its financial self-sufficiency. Members of The Niagara Parks Commission are proud of the accomplishments of the past 100 years and know that future Commissioners will carry on this tradition.

I would like to formally express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Commission for their conscientious dedication in dealing with Commission affairs, and particularly to D.R. Wilson, General Manager, and his staff, for their loyalty, co-operation, and for their interest in continually improving the facilities and services which add to the enjoyment of Park visitors.

In the pages that follow, the Ninety-ninth Annual Report of The Niagara Parks Commission is detailed by departmental activities.

Respectfully submitted,

The Niagara Parks Commission

James N. Allan

James N. Allan,
Chairman

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

Ontario *1885–1985*

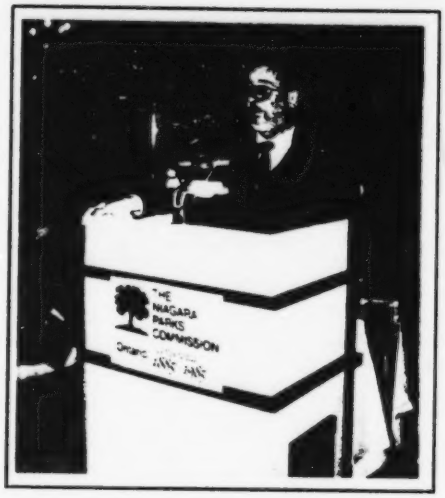
Centennial Celebrations

It was in this year that we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the founding of The Niagara Parks Commission.

Events began on March 30, 1985 with a special Centennial Dinner at the Victoria Park Restaurant in Queen Victoria Park. That was the day, in 1885, when the Niagara Parks Act was passed by the Ontario Legislature under Premier Sir Oliver Mowat - an Act "for the preservation of the natural scenery about Niagara Falls", thereby creating The Niagara Parks Commission.

Invited guests to this dinner were introduced to the first Chairman of The Niagara Parks Commission, Sir Casimir Gzowski, portrayed by Don Keppy, a local professional actor. Peter Gzowski, CBC Radio Show host and great-great-grandson of Sir Casimir Gzowski, acted as Master-Of-Ceremonies.

The Commission unveiled two projects that evening, a new 16mm centennial film - a thirteen minute movie describing The Niagara Parks Commission story, and a new 432 page full colour history book. The book took over three years to write by Park Historian George A. Seibel. It is filled with 400 photographs, half of which are in colour.



Guests at the dinner also heard a musical tribute entitled "A Century of Growth", written by two park employees, April Antonio and Mark Bazeley.

The Niagara Promotion Association paid tribute to The Niagara Parks Commission by having our Chairman, James N. Allan, serve as the Honourary Parade Marshall for their annual Blossom Festival Parade held in Queen Victoria Park in May. Several floats in the parade paid tribute to the Parks. Students at the School of Horticulture entered a spectacular float covered with a blanket of spring flowers.

(Above) Peter Gzowski, great-great-grandson of Sir Casimir Gzowski, acted as Master of Ceremonies for the Centennial Dinner.

At various events during this Centennial year, local actor, Donald Keppy, portrayed the first chairman of The Niagara Parks Commission, Sir Casimir Gzowski.

In mid-May, The Niagara Parks Commission introduced its new People Mover System, which is mentioned in detail elsewhere in this report. This system helped to relieve the seasonal traffic congestion in the Falls area. Visitors can now park their vehicles in a newly developed large parking area, just south of the Falls, and ride a futuristic People Mover Vehicle back to the Falls and surrounding area. A minimal fee was charged for parking and likewise for the use of the transportation system.

Near the end of May the first and only Canadian showing of "A Flowering of Science" — plants from Captain Cook's Voyage to Australia in 1768-71 — took place at the School of Horticulture. The Smithsonian Travelling Exhibit was very popular and remained on display until early July.

It was in the summer of 1985 that the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce featured the Niagara Parks Commission's Centennary on their trade dollar. The coin proved to be one of the most popular in this series. On Canada Day, the Canada Post Corporation unveiled a new postage stamp depicting Old Fort Erie.

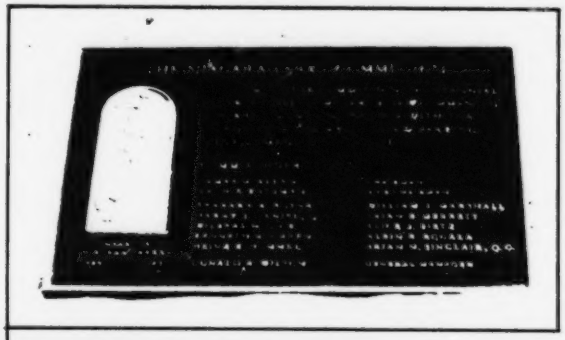
In early spring, approximately 50,000 beautiful "Niagara Centennial Tulips" bloomed in Queen Victoria Park. Park horticulturists also created and planted several attractive carpet bedding displays. The face of the Floral Clock was one of these and reminded visitors of our Centennary.

On June 21st a giant outdoor birthday party with clowns, balloons, food, fireworks, and entertainment was held at Queenston Heights Park. More than 6,000 people joined in the celebrations. The St. Lawrence Park Commission's Fort Henry Guard from Kingston performed on the playing field and the Spit-fire Band from Toronto provided musical entertainment.

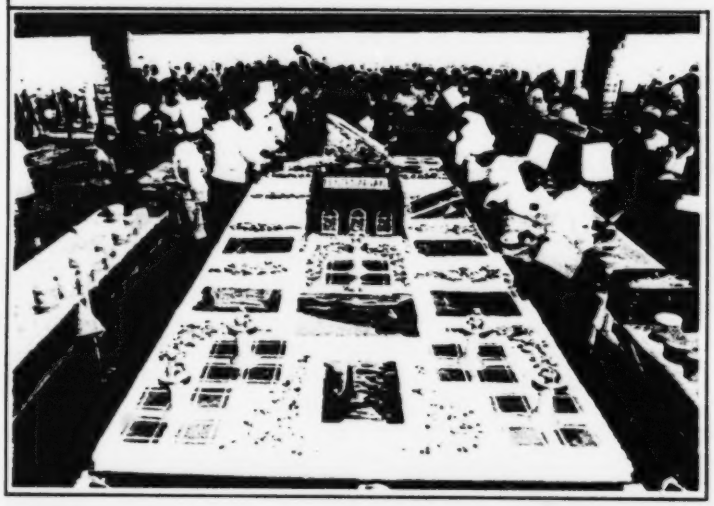
Band Concert programs throughout the Park system were dedicated to the Parks' 100th anniversary. There was

even a birthday song played at the beginning of the Fred Willett Band Concert programme.

The final event of the year, in October, was the opening of the new Fragrance Garden just north of the Greenhouse. The garden features a wide array of fragrant plants and flowers set at a comfortable height for touching and smelling. Many plants are identified by a braille sign. A plaque written in English and Braille was unveiled by Niagara Parks Chairman, James N. Allan and George Neal of the Canadian National Institute of the Blind. A time capsule was also placed and sealed within the foundation of this plaque. It is hoped that this time capsule will be opened on the 200th Anniversary of The Niagara Parks Commission.



Plaque placed at Rapids View People Mover Station.



Crowds wait in anticipation for a piece of the Centennial Cake at The Niagara Parks Commission's Centennial Birthday Party held in June at Queenston Heights Park.

Donald Wilson (left), General Manager of The Niagara Parks Commission, and Donald Nurse, President of Ainsworth Press Ltd., Kitchener, admire one of the first copies of The Niagara Parks Commission's new history book entitled "Ontario's Niagara Parks - 100 Years". Park Historian George Seibel (right) author of the book and his wife, Olive, who edited the publication, look on.

Ontario

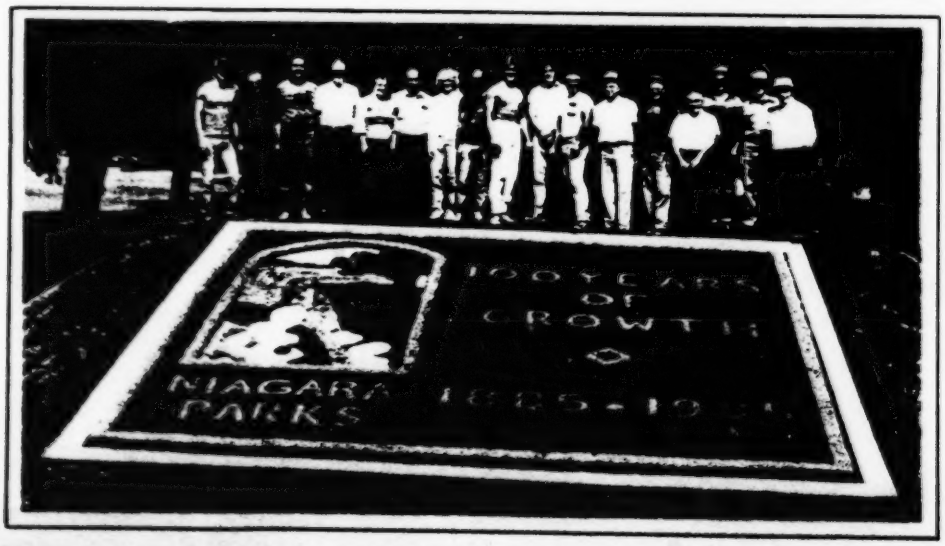
THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

1885–1985

Members of the Commission after their first ride aboard the People Mover vehicles.

Thousands of local residents enjoyed outdoor entertainment during the Centennial Birthday Party at Queenston Heights Park in June.

Visitors take a ride on the new People Movers in Queen Victoria Park.



The Horticulture staff at Queenston Heights Park view the carpet bedding.

Weather and Attendance

The greatest determinant of the level of participation in outdoor leisure and recreational activities is weather. The months of November and December of 1984 were warmer and wetter than normal. It wasn't until mid January that we experienced any real snowfall. However, once the snow arrived it stayed on the ground until late February. Cross-country skiing and outdoor sporting activities were brisk during this period.

The Niagara District Weather Office in St. Catharines recorded an above normal rainfall for the spring-time months. These rainfalls continued until the end of June. The Niagara area was thirsting for rain during July and September, whereas August and October again had above normal rainfall. July and August experienced an average amount of sunshine and a mean temperature of 21.7 C.

Overall attendance recorded at Niagara Parks attractions, golf courses, and museums increased 15.5 percent over 1984. Of particular significance was an increase of 16 percent in attendance at the Scenic Tunnels. Almost 790,000 people visited the Scenic Tunnels this year creating a record number of visitors in any one year since the attraction began operation. Seven and a half million people have visited the Scenic Tunnels during the past ten years. More golfers than in past years used Niagara Parks golf courses during 1985.

The winter scenery is spectacular near the Horseshoe Falls.

Magnolias in bloom outside the Niagara Parks Greenhouse.

Due to major renovations, the Niagara Spanish Aero Car opened later than usual, but attendance increased 4.4 percent. Just under 2 million people have taken the Aero Car over the past ten years.

There was a decrease in attendance at our historic sites. However, this situation appears to be the case at other historical buildings and sites outside the park system.

From early May until mid Octo... our new Niagara Parks People Movers carried almost 400,000 pe... during their first season of opera...

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

Ontario 1885–1985

The new Rapids View Parking Lot accommodated approximately 80,000 vehicles and, as a result, alleviated traffic congestion throughout Queen Victoria Park.

A license plate study was again carried out in Queen Victoria Park during the summer months. Fifty-nine percent of the vehicles recorded were from the United States.

Chartered Bus Permits Issued

Year	Number of Permits
1985	7,007
1984	6,717
1983	6,825
1982	7,079
1981	7,112
1980	7,450
1979	7,116
1978	5,488
1977	5,584
1976	6,021
1975	5,721

Queen Victoria Park Monthly Traffic Count

	1985	1984
April	300,951	309,886
May	439,101	432,683
June	550,788	563,045
July	843,348	901,047
August	783,208	806,170
September	476,401	471,470
October	393,241	341,999
	3,787,038	3,826,300

ATTENDANCE - ATTRACTIONS, GOLF COURSES AND MUSEUMS

	1985	1984	INCREASE OR (DECREASE)
McFarland House	1,752	1,772	(20)
Whirlpool Golf Course	42,652	37,777	4,875
Aerocar	174,968	167,468	7,500
Maid of the Mist Incline Railway	768,125	786,272	(18,147)
Scenic Tunnel	776,929	680,595	96,334
Horseshoe Falls Incline Railway	932,234	827,649	104,585
Greenhouse - Queen Victoria Park	419,780	389,558	30,222
Oak Hall Par 3 Golf Course	16,838	14,793	2,045
People Movers	389,478	—	389,478
Viewmobiles	—	117,445	(117,445)
Miller's Creek Campsite	8,438	8,749	(311)
Old Fort Erie	40,751	45,970	(5,219)
Old Fort Erie Educational Tours	1,854	1,601	253
Charles Daley Park	23,266	24,882	(1,616)
Stoney Creek Battlefield House	10,844	11,912	(1,068)
	3,607,909	3,116.443	491,466

Vehicles Accommodated in Tolled Parking Lots

Table Rock Parking Lot	300,646	369,387	(68,741)
Oakes Garden Parking Lot	29,479	23,219	6,260
Rainbow Bridge Parking Lot	37,218	23,219	13,999
Greenhouse Parking Lot	15,504	17,615	(2,111)
Rapids View Parking Lot	79,808	—	79,808
	462,655	433,440	29,215

Note
In 1985 the People Mover Transportation System and Rapids View Parking Lot components of the Queen Victoria Park Traffic Improvement Plan began operation.

Queen Victoria Park 10-Year Vehicle Count

Year	Number of Vehicles
1985	3,787,038
1984	3,826,300
1983	3,241,029
1982	3,378,953
1981	3,615,227
1980	3,442,784
1979	3,070,247
1978	2,801,208
1977	3,028,956
1976	3,228,098
1975	3,198,905

Total Traffic Recorded in the Niagara Parks System April 1 to October 31

Year	Number of Vehicles
1985	5,388,073
1984	5,405,785
1983	4,864,415
1982	5,734,622
1981	5,700,732
1980	5,502,370
1979	5,263,695
1978	4,767,476
1977	5,155,317
1976	5,540,310
1975	5,495,143

Vehicles Counted in Other Sections of The Niagara Parks Commission

	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981
North Parkway	984,976	975,915	982,554	979,836	821,601
South Parkway	571,140	560,350	597,107	588,618	548,374
Stoney Creek	44,919	43,220	43,725	47,149	55,490

(There are no traffic counters at Charles Daley Park or Miller's Creek Park)

Queen Victoria Park License Plate Survey

Percentage from	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981
CANADA	41.0	42.2	43.7	43.4	43.7
UNITED STATES	59.0	57.8	56.3	56.6	56.3

Engineering Department

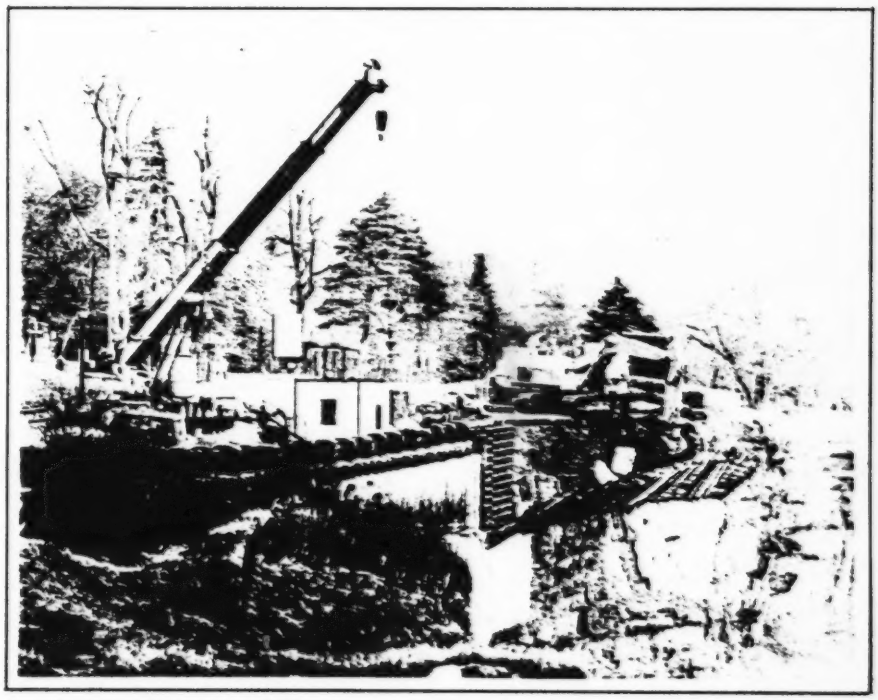
A permanent staff of 45 people is employed in this department encompassing a wide variety of tradesmen - construction, electro-mechanical and roads being the major categories.

This department is responsible for the supervision and co-ordination of capital construction, maintenance and planning for all the Commission's buildings, services and roadways.

Capital Construction

1985 was an ambitious capital construction year with expenditures amounting to $8 million dollars, the largest total in Commission history.

The long awaited transportation system was established. This project consisted of constructing 1423 parking spaces, access roadways and lighting in the Rapids View area, the widening of the roadway in Queen Victoria Park, the purchasing of six double and one single People Mover vehicles, the building of seven People Mover stations and support garage. The implementation of the transportation system was successful in alleviating



Work was completed on the replacement of the foundation and parapet across from the Victoria Park Restaurant.

the traffic congestion in Queen Victoria Park.

Other major capital projects included the modernization of the Spanish Aero Car drive and track rope support systems, the replacement of the foundation and parapet across from the Victoria Park Restaurant, and the construction of an observation deck and related pathways with landscaping at the brink of the Horseshoe Falls. At the Queenston Heights Restaurant an outdoor patio overlooking the lower Niagara River was added and a central heating system was installed in this building to make possible "all year" operation.

Maintenance

The maintenance program involves continual upgrading of the Commission roadways and structures. The 1985 maintenance budget placed an emphasis on maintenance of the roadways including crack sealing, guide rail replacement, reconstruction and resurfacing, and sidewalk replacement. Over one half a kilometre of service roads were added along the South Parkway and major roof replacements were carried out at Queenston Heights, the Golf Clubhouse, the Greenhouse and Service Yards, and the Fort Erie Pavilion.

Planning

Engineering staff members continue to be involved in co-operation and co-ordination with tourist and municipal agencies concerned with traffic flows to and from Queen Victoria Park.

Additional tourist services are being planned at Rapids View and the Table Rock area to make the visitor's stay a pleasant and comfortable one. Planning is complete for the Table Rock Dining and the Victoria Park Banquet Room renovations and the work is to be carried out early in 1986.

Property

Establishing boundary locations, land ownership, deeds, leases, agreements, property surveys and easements as well as the issuing of various permits on Commission lands are expedited by the Properties Manager in the Engineering Department.

Various small parcels of land totalling .486 hectares have been deeded to the Commission without charge this year. Also a .421 hectare water lot in the Town of Fort Erie was purchased.

Ontario Hydro and The Niagara Parks Commission exchanged 3.119 hectare lots in the Rapids View area of Queen Victoria Park.

A view of the new People Movers and station introduced for the first time in Queen Victoria Park in May.

Statement of Capital Expenditures

FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1985

STONE PARAPETS, WALLS AND ARCHES		
Gorge Wall Foundation Replacement - Opposite Victoria Park Restaurant	$ 568,848	
Table Rock Observation Deck	144,156	$ 713,004
POWER AND WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS		
Table Rock Complex - Outside Lighting		4,556
REVENUE PRODUCING FACILITIES		
Queenston Restaurant - Outside Patio	$ 58,938	
Queenston Restaurant - Heating System	103,634	
Queenston Restaurant - Replace Flat Roof	10,137	
Aerocar Renovations	1,801,058	
Table Rock South Building - Air Condition Basement	4,436	
Marina - New Dock Pilings	15,180	
Old Fort Erie - Flag Poles	4,837	1,998,220
		$ 2,715,780
QUEEN VICTORIA PARK TRAFFIC AND PEOPLE MOVER SYSTEM		
Rapids View Parking Lot - 1,423 Spaces		
Roads and Parking Modules	$2,246,096	
Overflow Parking Modules	225,965	
Lighting	257,964	
Hydro and Telephone	197,139	
Water and Sewers	808,174	
Landscaping	171,116	$ 3,906,454
Buildings and Stations		
Rapids View Station	$ 847,547	
Table Rock Station	189,164	
Princess Elizabeth Station	52,126	
Queen Victoria Park - 5 Stations	615,067	
Maintenance Garage - People Movers	1,079,053	
Rapids View Parking - Entrance Booths	81,347	
Table Rock Parking - Exit Booths	97,389	2,961,693
People Movers		2,868,065
Road Improvements		
Queen Victoria Park - Road Widening	$ 235,412	
Table Rock - Road Rearrangement	167,364	402,776
		$10,138,988
		$12,854,768
EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHINGS		597,368
AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS		172,212
		$13,624,348

Attractions Department

This department is responsible for a diversity of Park operations — Table Rock Scenic Tunnels, Niagara Spanish Aero Car, Incline Railways, Niagara Parks Marina and parking lots. This year the Attractions Department also assumed responsibility of overseeing the operations of Charles Daley Park in addition to Miller's Creek Campsite.

In 1985 the viewmobiles ceased operation within Queen Victoria Park and were replaced by People Movers. The new Rapids View Parking Lot also opened. Both the operation of the People Movers and the Rapids View Parking Lot are the responsibility of the Attractions Department.

A dramatic increase in attendance took place at the Scenic Tunnels and the Horseshoe Falls Incline Railway. Gross receipts at the Scenic Tunnels increased just over 15 percent and the Incline increased almost 14 percent. Overall attendance at all Niagara Parks attractions increased 18.7 percent over 1984.

Of particular significance was the increase in sales in our Package Tour business. The concentrated effort in promoting this area of business is having a positive effect.

A couple enjoy a meal at the Whirlpool Restaurant. Outside the restaurant, people enjoy cross-country skiing.

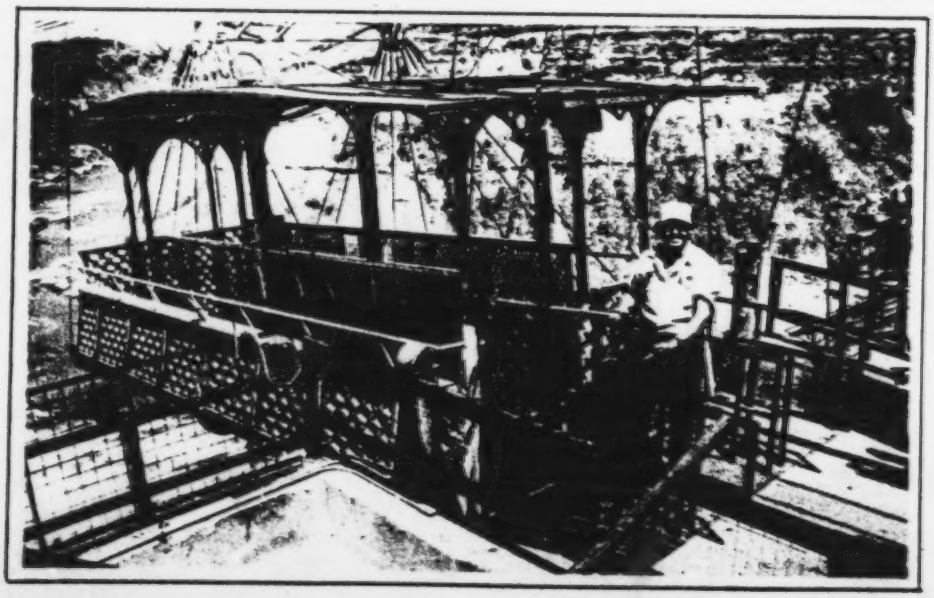
Retail Operations Department

The Retail Operations Department is responsible for the management and operation of all retail revenue-producing facilities operated by the Commission within the Parks.

The aim of this Department is to provide quality merchandise of the greatest possible variety in an effort to satisfy the needs of the many annual visitors. Emphasis continues on the purchasing of Canadian made goods for resale in the Commission's ten major retail outlet.

Once again, retail sales were strong with continuing strength in the textile areas. Fashion is now becoming a strong factor in t-shirt sales, not only in the styles but also in the art work that is screened onto the shirts. Gone are the days when a plain basic shirt with a small uninspired design would sell. Customers demand creative work. General souvenir merchandise

The Niagara Spanish Aero Car re-opened in May after extensive upgrading and renovations.



continued to be strong especially in the areas of small novelty items and souvenir china. Sales of non-souvenir merchandise picked up and are expected to show an increase during 1986.

Food Service Department

A regular full time staff of 28 and a seasonal complement of close to 500 employees make up this department. Four fully-licensed dining facilities, a cafeteria, and five snack bars are operated.

One of the most significant physical changes took place at the Queenston Heights Restaurant with the building of an outdoor patio deck. This new area, equipped with tables and umbrellas, can seat 50 people and proved to be very popular.

A job re-organization at the Whirlpool Restaurant resulted in Marc Skinner, Manager of the restaurant, assuming responsibility for the food operation of the entire golf complex.

Hospitality awareness among all employees, continues to be a top priority. In this regard, many training sessions using audio-visual aids were conducted on such topics as attitude, salesmanship, and wine and beverage service.

All Niagara Parks menus featured the Centennial logo on their covers and a Centennial food feature in the menus. A Centennial wine was made available for this special year.

In addition to catering to tourists, our restaurants enjoy a fine reputation in the Niagara area for banquet services for weddings, parties, and business meetings.

Golf Courses

The favourable weather helped to increase attendance at both the 18 hole Whirlpool and 9 hole Par 3 golf courses this year. Attendance at the two courses was up approximately twelve percent.

The 25th Annual Men's Amateur Open took on a different approach with the tournament being held over a two day period in August at the Whirlpool Golf Course. This special Centennial tournament attracted 151 participants. The overall champion was Robert Cummings of the Tyandaga Municipal Club in Burlington. He shot 71 on the first day and 73 on the second day to reach even par for the 36 hole tournament.

In September, the 23rd Annual Niagara Parks Ladies' Amateu Tournament, with 112 competing, wa held at the Whirlpool Golf Course The winner of the Lilian Allan Troph was Wendy Wilson of Rio Vista Clu with a low gross of 82.

This year there were about forty five tournaments, each with a banque held at the Whirlpool Golf Course.

In the Pro Shop, a wider range o golf merchandise was introduce which proved very popular.

Lillian Henderson (centre) presents the Lilian Allan Trophy for low gross to Wendy Wilson (right) of the Rio Vista Club. On the left is low net winner, Kay Howe.

Winners of the 25th Annual Niagara Parks Men's Amateur Open are presented with their trophies. Pictured from left to right are course superintendant Bill Glashan, B Flight winner Bob Simpson, Whirlpool manager Marc Skinner, A Flight winner Robert Cummings, and Dave Dargie.

Historic Sites

One of the Commission's goals is "to develop, operate and maintain. . . historic sites. . .which will add to the visitor's enjoyment". The historic sites of The Niagara Parks Commission include Old Fort Erie, McFarland House at Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Battlefield House in Stoney Creek. The Commission also administers Drummond Hill Cemetery in the City of Niagara Falls and owns the building housing the Willoughby Historical Museum on the South Parkway.

Attendance declined slightly this season at these historical sites. This, however, seemed consistent with other historic sites and attractions in the area which experienced a similar decline.

A mock battle, to commemorate the War of 1812, was re-enacted at Battlefield Park, in Stoney Creek, on June 9.

Hourly demonstrations and tours were conducted from mid-June to Labour Day by Barracks staff at Old Fort Erie. The soldiers' Barracks was rearranged to provide a diorama depicting living arrangements during the period. Bunks were made up with straw-filled palliasses, bolsters and blankets, cooking utensils, clothing and equipment were displayed, as well as a manequin in female clothing of the period to provide a more realistic and accurate interpretation of the Barracks.

At Old Fort Erie on June 28, Canada Post Corporation officials unveiled a new stamp series depicting ten Canadian forts.

The Old Fort Erie Barracks staff took part in several special events during the season. A Military Tattoo was held on June 22 with units from the Lincoln and Welland Regimental Band, Fort Henry Guard, Fort Niagara and Fort York participating in the celebration of The Niagara Parks Commission's centennial. The staff also took part in a Military Tattoo at the Harbour Front in Toronto, as part of Parks Canada's centennial celebrations.

Police Department

The Niagara Parks Police enforce The Niagara Parks Act, The Highway Traffic Act, and The Liquor Control Act. A regular staff consisting of a chief of police, five corporals, nine first-class constables and four dispatchers make up this department throughout the year. A seasonal staff consisting of twenty-nine special constables complement the regular force during the busy summer months. John Clark was appointed as constable bringing with him ten years of police experience with the Metro Toronto Police Department.

Good public relations is a high priority of The Niagara Parks Police. Each year the Parks Police respond to numerous calls for assistance such as help in locating a lost child, visitors in need of medical assistance, and help in locating lost articles. There were 745 articles turned into our police in 1985. The Park Police were successful in returning 32% of these items to their owners.

The Niagara Parks Commission, under agreement with Parks Canada, continues to have jurisdiction over Navy Island. Intermittent patrols with a Federal Officer from Canada Customs were made to this island during the summer months. In addition, the Police Department worked in co-operation with the Ministry of the Environment as they engaged in extensive installation of water quality monitoring equipment on Navy Island.

Vehicular traffic was also recorded by traffic counters in Queen Victoria Park from April 1st until October 31st. The traffic count was down slightly, perhaps as a result of the increased availability of parking in the Rapids View Parking Lot. Traffic congestion in Queen Victoria Park was almost non-existent in contrast to past years. Traffic in other areas of Niagara Parks increased as indicated by the accompanying charts. Although we do not normally record traffic during November and December, there was a notable increase as a result of the Festival of Lights.

Safety

The Niagara Parks Commission is committed to providing a safe work environment for all its employees. Therefore, the goal of this department is accident prevention, eliminating all work-related injuries through planning, training supervision and the correction of unsafe work conditions.

The Commission, at the close of 1985, had accumulated a credit position in relation to assessments paid to the Workers Compensation Board and accident costs. For the first time in many years the figure is estimated to extend well over the $100,000 mark.

The real significance of these figures is that they represent not only a continued reduction of accidents over the past several years, resulting in lower accident costs, but a reduction of serious injuries.

Employee accidents have not exceeded the National Frequency in any year since 1980. Working a total of some 1,770,046 hours in 1985, there were only sixteen minor Lost Time Accidents. The group average nationally would compute 36 Lost Time Accidents for the same number of hours worked.

Horticulture Department

"A Century of Growth" was one of the featured carpet bedding themes in Queen Victoria Park during our Centennial Year. A new carpet bedding display was also constructed at the entrance to Queenston Heights Park which featured our Centennial logo. This same informal design was also used at the Floral Clock.

Another highlight of our Centennial Year was the development of a Fragrance Garden. Located directly north of the Greenhouse complex, this

garden features plants with unusual taste, texture, and fragrance. It was developed in conjunction with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and was officially opened by Chairman James N. Allan during the early part of October.

The nearby Greenhouses attracted approximately 420,000 people in 1985. This figure represents a 30,000 increase in visitation over the previous year. Four major ornamental shows (Chrysanthemum, Christmas, Spring, and Reiger Begonia) were grown for public display. The focal point of the Christmas show was the creation of a living Poinsettia tree in the Greenhouse "Rotunda".

The Niagara Parks Commission's floral display at the Royal Winter Fair was well received by the public. The show featured an ornamental pool with a backdrop of cascade and Japanese exhibition chrysanthemums.

Due to the implementation of the People Mover System, major landscape renovations were required in Queen Victoria Park and at the Rapids View Station. A commemorative tree planting ceremony took place during the fall of the year with many of the Commissioners in attendance. Soft landscaping consisted of seeding and sodding the site, grading to facilitate drainage, as well as planting 224 trees. The placement of picnic tables at this park was appreciated by the public.

Our Centennial Year also marked the demise of the two largest remaining American Elm trees in Queen Victoria Park. Both of these magnificent specimens succumbed to the Dutch Elm Disease. One of the stumps will be used to interpret the story of this beautiful tree. Elsewhere in the Niagara Parks, 162 elms were removed and 480 older trees were taken down. In every section, a tree planting programme was conducted. Of particular note, 1985 also marked the introduction of the Gypsy Moth...a potentially damaging insect to trees along the Parkway.

Vandalism continued to be a

Visitors admire the new Fragrance Garden located just north of the Greenhouse.

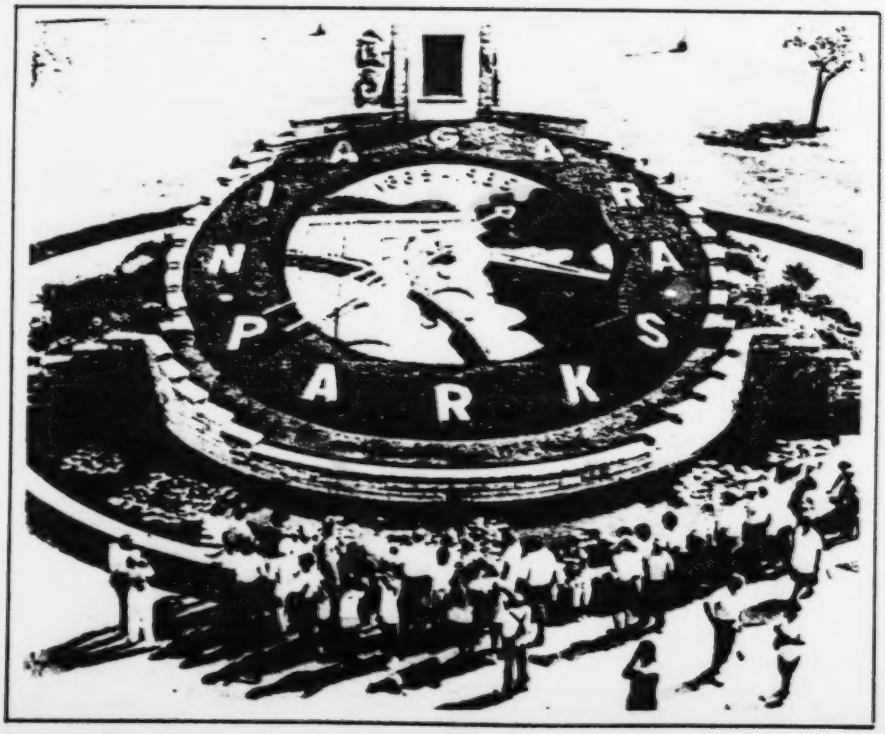
A festive poinsettia tree and fountain highlight the foyer of the Niagara Parks Greenhouse.

problem at Drummond Hill Cemetery during this year. A report on the history of this cemetery was also completed by two interested citizens of the community.

Several minor landscape projects were undertaken in each of the sections. Of particular interest were the improvements made at Queenston Flats Park, a new foundation planting plan was implemented in front of Queenston Heights Restaurant, a landscape re-development took place at the entrance to the Commissioners' Quarters, and site improvements were made on the former Penn Central property in Fort Erie. The Whirlpool Golf Course also experienced some changes during our Centennial Year. A beautiful carpet bedding display produced many favourable comments from the public. At the Oak Hall Par 3 Golf Course, several unsafe trees were removed and a new tree planting program was initiated.

George W. Dalby, Superintendent of the Horticulture Department, retired in November after effectively serving the Commission for 32 years. Two Horticulture Department employees, Don Harfield and Joe Paonessa, were recognized as being "Employees of the Year" for The Niagara Parks Commission.

A young lady views the lovely display of Easter Lilies at the Niagara Parks Greenhouse.



The face of the Floral Clock displayed The Niagara Parks Commission's Centennial logo in 1985.

School of Horticulture

The "Flowering of Science" exhibit was part of the School's contribution to the 100th anniversary of The Niagara Parks Commission. Jointly sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute and the British Museum of Natural History, this exhibit displayed plants from Captain Cook's first voyage to Australia in 1768. It was enjoyed by over 6,000 people from around the world. For this event, the School Lecture Hall was used as a major exhibit area, perhaps for the first time in its history.

The students and staff also played a significant role in developing a Centennial Float for the Blossom Festival Parade. This activity, plus the previously mentioned "Flowering of Science" exhibit, necessitated over 1,100 hours of extra effort beyond the normal program.

The 43rd Annual Graduation Ceremonies took place at the School auditorium on March 30, 1985. Twelve students graduated and received their diplomas from Kenneth Green, Commissioner from Simcoe.

Brian Kelly Baun
Pickering, Ontario

Stephen Jeffrey Bouw
St. Catharines, Ontario

John Martin Dick
St. Catharines, Ontario

Robert Edmund Hunking
Auburn, Ontario

Sandy Lee MacDonald
Chatham, Ontario

Ellen Hope MacDonald
Burlington, Ontario

Richard Leonard MacKinnon
Lambeth, Ontario

Peter Alexander Ovsenek
Pickering, Ontario

Claudia B. Sonzogni
Mississauga, Ontario

Michele Vincenzo Spatafora
Thornhill, Ontario

Edward Thomas Stratton
Paris, Ontario

Janet Elizabeth Snaith
Hamilton, Ontario

(Above) Thousands of daffodils blanket Queen Victoria Park during the early spring months.

(Below) A float entered in the Annual Blossom Festival Parade constructed by students and staff from the School of Horticulture.

James N. Allan, Chairman of the Commission, presided at the exercises. The guest speaker was Dr. Calvin Chong, Research Scientist, Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland.

All graduates proceeded to employment or advanced studies following graduation. One graduate enrolled in the Bachelor program at Cornell University and one undertook working experience in the nursery industry both in Oregon and in the Netherlands. For the third year, consecutively, one of our graduates was admitted to the Longwood Gardens International Internship program. All have performed with distinction and their performance has greatly enhanced the reputation of the School of Horticulture in the United States.

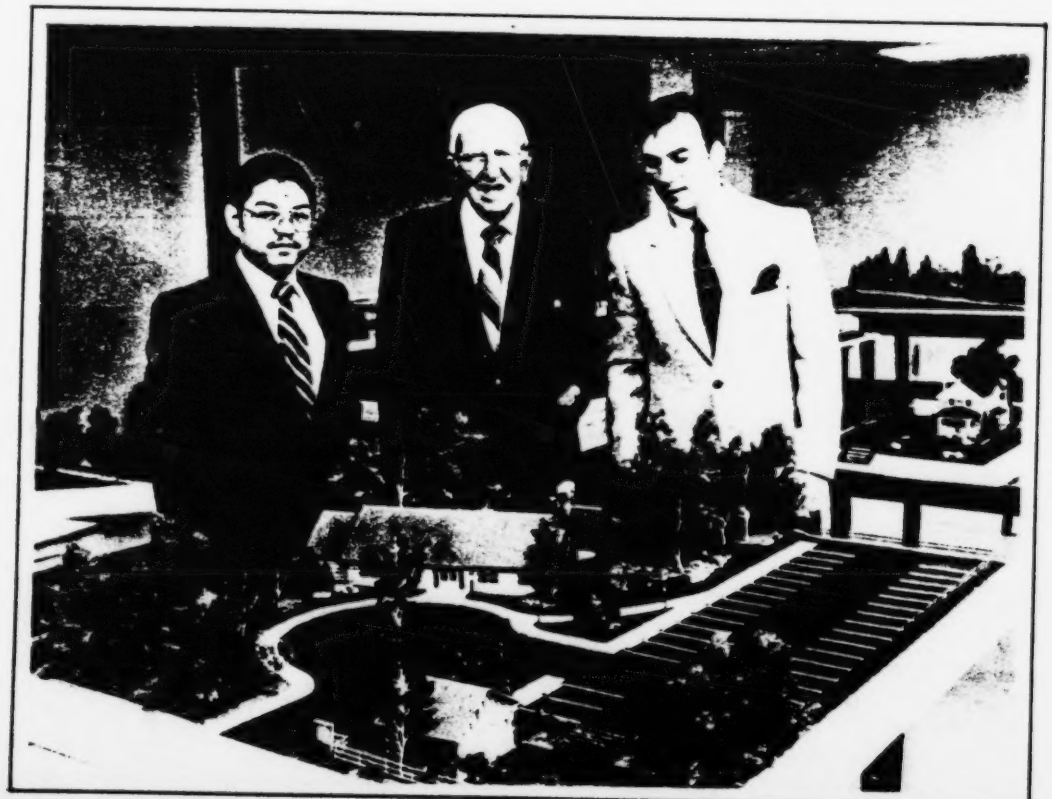
The total number of volumes in the School of Horticulture Library now stands at 2,575 books. Of these, 558 volumes have been added to the collection during the past year. Interestingly, 474 came from the Samuel Weir estate.

Personnel Department

In general, the tourist industry is a significant employer of labour in the Niagara Region. The Niagara Parks Commission alone has on its payroll each year approximately 245 regular full-time employees and 1,295 seasonal employees. Of particular interest this year was the fact there were 375 fewer adults applying for work compared to last year.

There were 3,050 people who applied for 586 seasonal positions in 1985. Fifty-three percent of the seasonal employees hired were female.

Many of the seasonal employees hired each year through the Personnel Department are students. In conjunction with International Youth Year (1985), the Commission established five awards of $500.00 each for student employees. The awards recognized the contribution student employees have made to our organization and to the community at large. The first recipients of the award were Andrew Brown (Whirlpool Golf Course), Linda Rennie (Princess Elizabeth Building), Tejinder Virk (Victoria Park Gift Shop), Marie Stokes (People Mover System) and Bill Wierstra (Table Rock Restaurant).



Dr. Calvin Chong, Research Scientist from the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario at Vineland, along with James N. Allan, Chairman of The Niagara Parks Commission, admire the James N. Allan Landscape Award model prepared by Brian Baun.

Fifteen regular employees took advantage of a policy whereby job related courses were paid for in whole or in part by the Commission.

In 1985, eight regular employees retired with a total number of 158 years service. They were as follows: Fred Campisano, Fred Clarkson, George Dalby, Kazys Grunys, Jack Heximer, William Newlands and Jean Marie Tremblay.

Twenty-six vacancies were filled during the year and eighteen employees reclassified. Eleven employees left our employ.

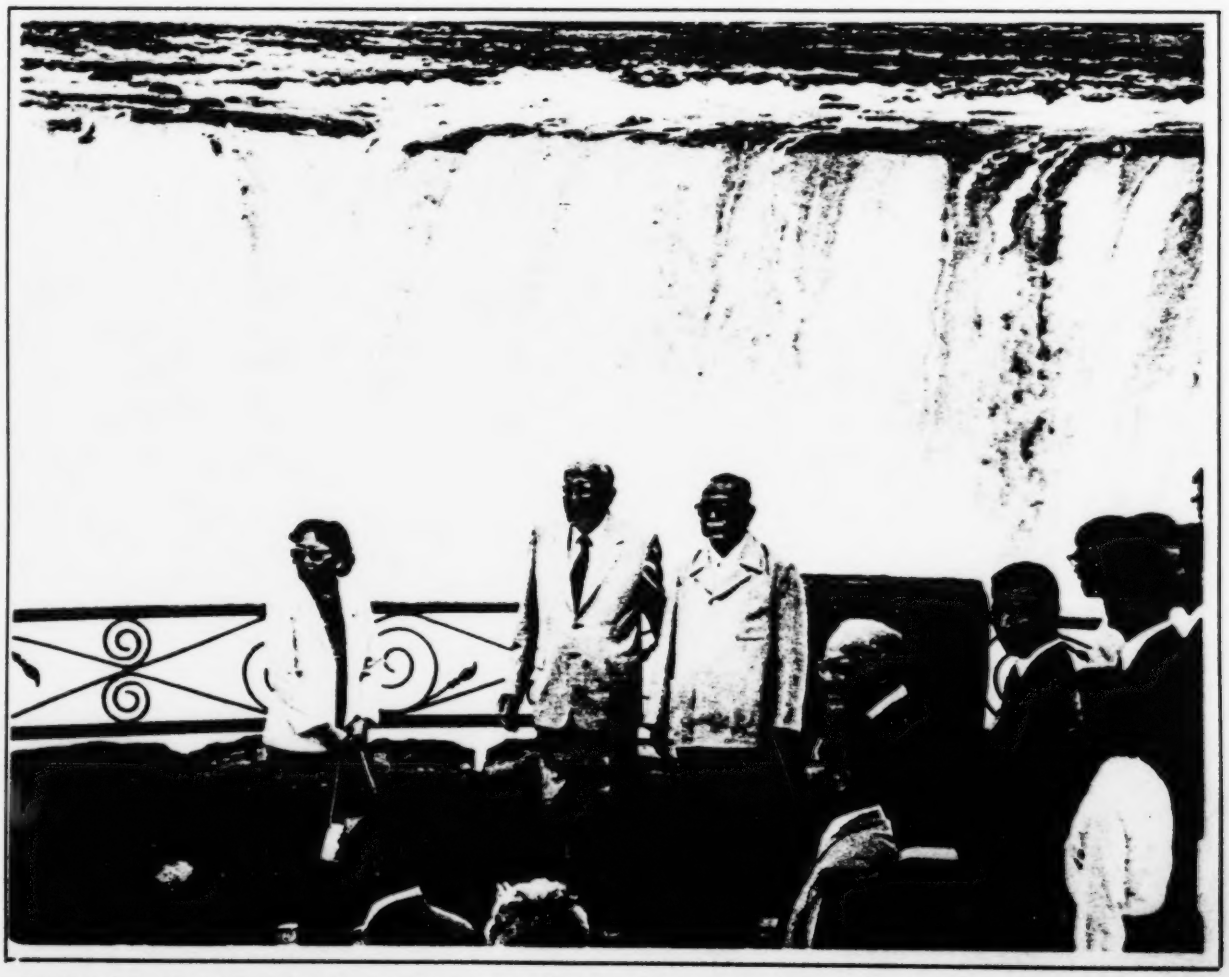
A two year Collective Agreement covering 1985 and 1986 was reached with The Ontario Public Service Employee's Union, Local 217 (Park Employees). An agreement with the Park Police was still being negotiated at year's end.

Public Relations and Advertising Department

This was a particularly busy year for the Public Relations and Advertising Department in helping to co-ordinate the many centennial activities which took place.

However, the day to day activities continued in providing information on the park system by mail, telephone, and personal contacts. Twenty presentations were given to service clubs and organizations using the new Niagara Parks Commission film. This department also assisted in the co-ordination of a new Ministry of Tourism and Recreation film on Niagara Falls entitled "Niagara Is" released in 1985.

As in previous years, the Public Relations Department conducted tours of the area for world leaders and dignitaries.



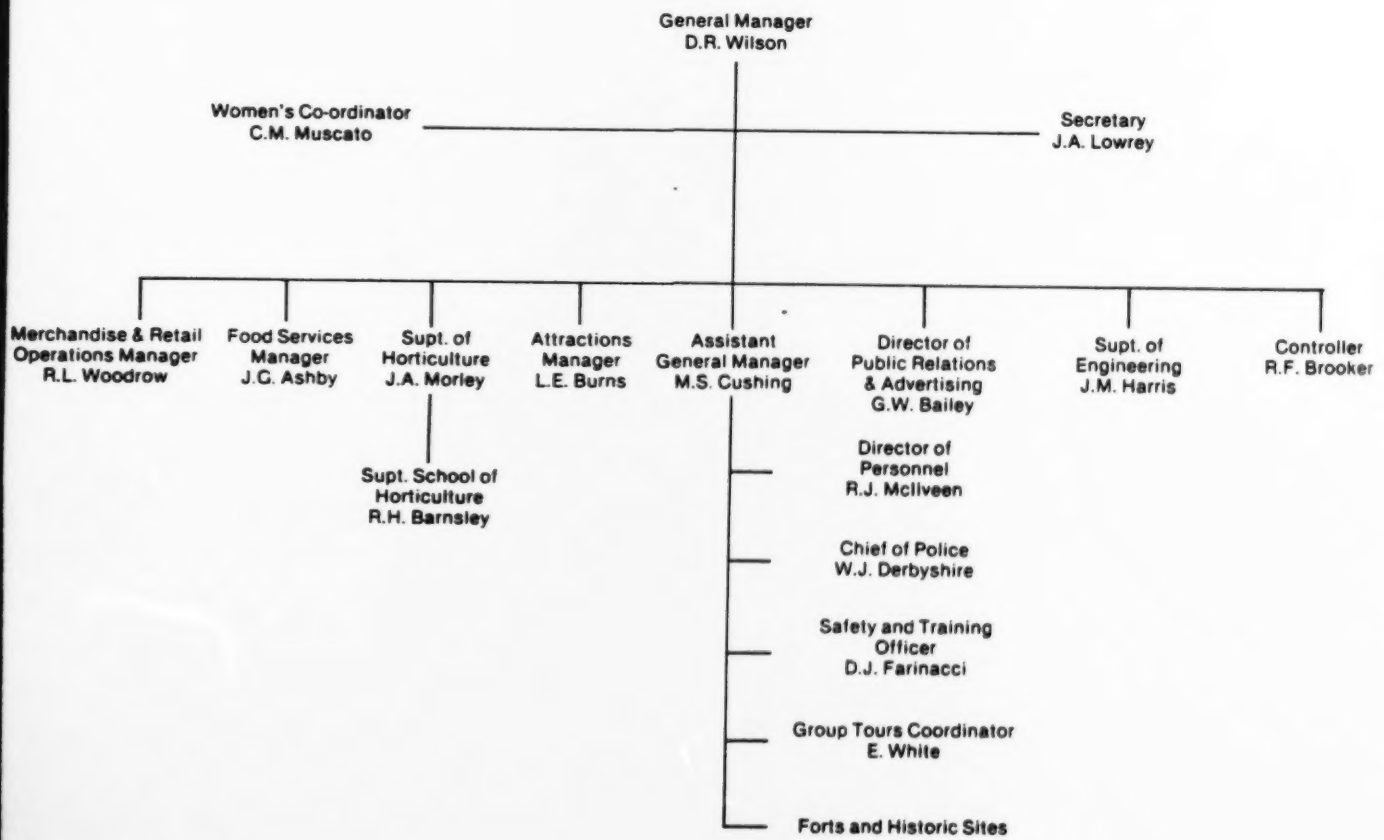
People's Republic of China President Li Xiannian, (third from left) is escorted by James N. Allan, Chairman of The Niagara Parks Commission. The President was accompanied by his wife, Madame Lin Jaimei (left).

A United Way campaign of employees resulted in contributions of more than $5,589 to the United Way. This was the best campaign ever in the history of the Park and the employee donations were matched by the Commission.

During the summer months information booths are operated within the Parks by Niagara Parks Commission staff providing visitors with up-to-date travel information. The importance of working with our colleagues in promoting the total Niagara area is recognized by the Commission. Therefore, the Commission is a member of both The Niagara Falls, Canada Visitor & Convention Bureau and the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce.

Preparing copy for newspaper and magazine advertisements and the placing of these advertisements in all forms of media is the responsibility of this department. A large part of this budget was directed to placing advertisements in the Convention Bureau's publication "Niagara Falls, Canada". This booklet is distributed free of charge, printed in English and French, and given yearly to approximately one and a half million people.

The Niagara Parks Commission Administrative Organization Chart



Auditors' Report

To The Niagara Parks Commission and to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

I have examined the balance sheet of The Niagara Parks Commission as at October 31, 1985 and the statements of equity, income and expenditure and changes in financial position for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Commission as at October 31, 1985 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

D.F. Archer, F.C.A.
Provincial Auditor

Toronto, Ontario
January 24, 1986

Statements

1. Balance Sheet
2. Statement of Equity
3. Statement of Income and Expenditure
4. Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Schedule

5. Gift Shops, Restaurants and Attractions
   Schedule of Income and Expenditure

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

Ontario 1885–1985

BALANCE SHEET AS AT OCTOBER 31, 1985 — **STATEMENT 1**

	1985	1984
	$	$ note 4
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	11,224,994	7,820,987
Accounts receivable		
Water rentals	1,390,059	1,265,369
Sundry	433,205	607,112
Inventories - note 1 (a)		
Saleable merchandise	1,610,230	1,340,083
Maintenance and other supplies	350,052	185,143
Prepaid expenses	43,134	29,759
	15,051,674	11,248,453
INVESTMENT OF FUNDS FOR FUTURE CAPITAL PROGRAM	—	6,898,331
FIXED - notes 1 (b) and 2		
Land	4,920,364	4,920,364
Buildings, roadways and structures	36,925,798	27,316,857
Equipment and furnishings	4,648,525	4,263,254
Vehicles	3,636,295	901,071
	50,130,982	37,401,546
Accumulated depreciation	14,812,767	13,843,692
	35,318,215	23,557,854
Capital works in progress	121,304	4,998,455
	35,439,519	28,556,309
	50,491,193	46,703,093
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	2,480,540	2,612,864
Accrued payroll	682,499	416,372
	3,163,039	3,029,236
LONG-TERM INDEBTEDNESS		
Mortgage payable	—	24,000
EQUITY		
EQUITY (Statement 2)	47,328,154	43,649,857
	50,491,193	46,703,093

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Commission:

James R Allan
Chairman

Arthur Kelgman
Vice-Chairman

STATEMENT 2

STATEMENT OF EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1985

	1985	1984
	$	$
EQUITY, BEGINNING OF YEAR	43,649,857	39,103,711
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR (Statement 3)	3,678,297	4,546,146
EQUITY, END OF YEAR	47,328,154	43,649,857

STATEMENT 3

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1985

	1985	1984
	$	$
INCOME		
Water rentals	3,399,946	3,275,057
Privileges, tolls and fees	679,847	659,444
Net income from gift shops, restaurants and attractions, exclusive of any portion of the administrative overhead of the Commission (Schedule 5)	8,479,697	8,149,987
Sundry income	34,362	25,375
Loss on disposal of fixed assets - net	(108,799)	(15,165)
Premium on United States funds - net	191,656	172,497
Interest on bank deposits	961,642	1,161,200
	13,638,351	13,428,395
EXPENDITURE		
Maintenance expenses	7,167,914	6,424,046
Administrative and general expenses	1,651,333	1,483,393
Advertising and public relations	407,852	285,892
Mortgage interest	611	1,418
Bank charges and interest	25,687	19,425
	9,253,397	8,214,174
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR BEFORE DEPRECIATION ON NON-INCOME PRODUCING ASSETS	4,384,954	5,214,221
DEPRECIATION OF NON-INCOME PRODUCING ASSETS	706,657	668,075
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	3,678,297	4,546,146

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

Ontario 1885–1985

STATEMENT 4

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1985

	1985	1984
	$	$
FUNDS WERE PROVIDED BY		
Operations		
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	3,678,297	4,546,146
Charge against income not requiring an outlay of funds - depreciation	1,678,279	1,241,524
Loss on disposal of fixed assets - net	108,799	15,165
	5,465,375	5,802,835
Investment funds for future capital program	6,898,311	315,397
Sale of fixed assets	76,909	29,913
	12,440,615	6,148,145
FUNDS WERE USED FOR		
Purchase of fixed assets and capital works in progress	8,747,197	6,139,048
Payment of long-term indebtedness - Mortgage payable	24,000	2,000
	8,771,197	6,141,048
INCREASE IN WORKING CAPITAL	3,669,418	7,097
WORKING CAPITAL, BEGINNING OF YEAR	8,219,217	8,212,120
WORKING CAPITAL, END OF YEAR	11,888,635	8,219,217

GIFT SHOPS, RESTAURANTS AND ATTRACTIONS
SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1985

	1985	1984
	$	$
INCOME		
Souvenirs, china and post cards	11,213,466	10,393,490
Food and refreshments	7,312,811	6,791,868
Beer, liquor and wine	991,959	921,129
Confectionery and tobacco	439,824	410,658
Fares and admissions	5,898,867	4,940,461
Rentals	325,373	291,979
Sundry	502,769	443,467
	26,685,069	24,193,052
COST OF GOODS SOLD		
Souvenirs, china and post cards	5,211,131	4,885,292
Food and refreshments	2,114,132	1,867,213
Beer, liquor and wine	309,187	308,947
Confectionery and tobacco	239,657	229,363
Sundry	223,708	188,235
	8,097,815	7,479,050
GROSS PROFIT	18,587,254	16,714,002
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		
Salaries and wages	5,095,876	4,514,232
Employee benefits	454,361	400,536
Fuel, power, water and laundry	506,759	491,879
General expenses	1,032,712	772,897
Maintenance of buildings and equipment	909,950	809,266
Maintenance of grounds	306,098	277,183
Grants in lieu of municipal taxes	365,451	344,585
Distribution Centre expense	464,728	379,988
	9,135,935	7,990,566
NET INCOME BEFORE DEPRECIATION	9,451,319	8,723,436
DEPRECIATION OF BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT	971,622	573,449
NET INCOME EXCLUSIVE OF ANY PORTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD OF THE COMMISSION	8,479,697	8,149,987

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

Ontario 1885–1985

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1985

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Inventories
Inventories of saleable merchandise are valued at the lower of cost (first-in, first out) and net realizable value.

(b) Fixed assets
All fixed assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation has been recorded on the straight-line method, using rates from 2 to 20 percent for buildings, roadways and structures, from 10 to 50 percent for equipment and furnishings and from 8 to 50 percent for vehicles.

2. FIXED ASSETS

	1985		
	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
	$	$	$
Land	4,920,364	—	4,920,364
Buildings, roadways and structures	36,925,798	11,186,466	25,739,332
Equipment and furnishings	4,648,525	2,904,142	1,744,383
Vehicles	3,636,295	722,159	2,914,136
	50,130,982	14,812,767	35,318,215

	1984		
	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
	$	$	$
Land	4,920,364	—	4,920,364
Buildings, roadways and structures	27,316,857	10,454,934	16,861,923
Equipment and furnishings	4,263,254	2,725,642	1,537,612
Vehicles	901,071	663,116	237,955
	37,401,546	13,843,692	23,557,854

3. TRUST FUNDS

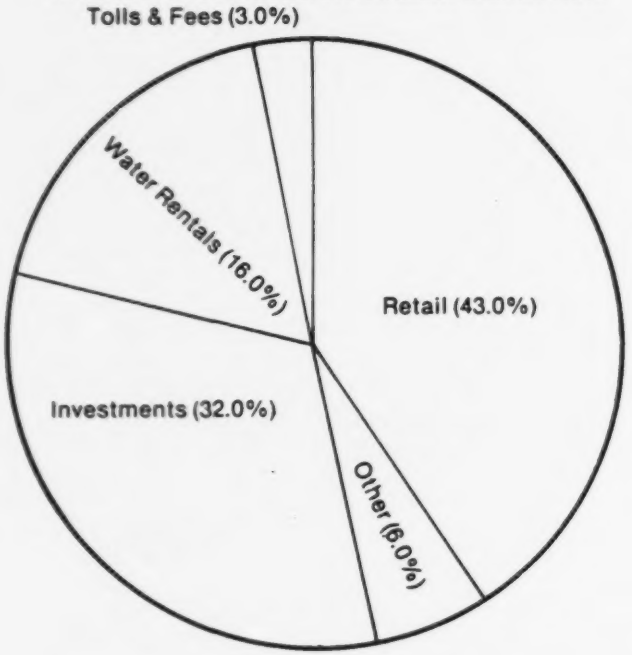
The Commission administers trust funds for the perpetual care of a cemetery plot at Drummond Hill Cemetery. As at October 31, 1985 these funds totalled $6,183 (October 31, 1984 - $5,803). These funds are not included in the financial statements.

4. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

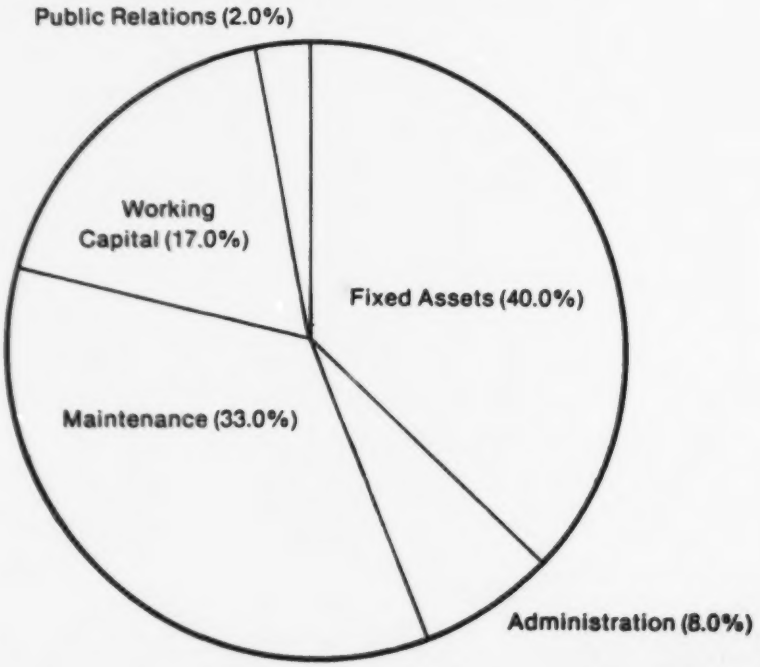
Certain comparative figures on Statement 1 and Schedule 5 have been reclassified to conform with the 1985 presentation.

NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

WHERE THE COMMISSION DOLLAR CAME FROM



WHERE THE COMMISSION DOLLAR WENT



THE
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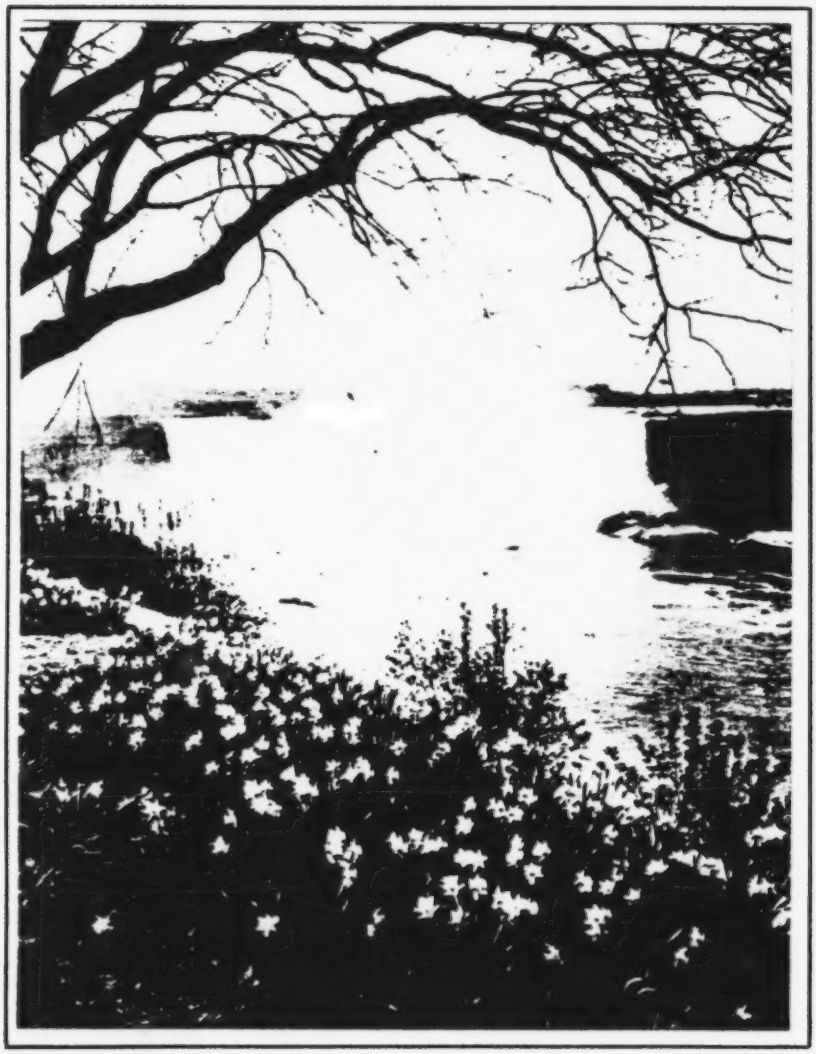
COMMISSION

Ontario 1885–1985



Canadian Horseshoe Falls as seen from the Canadian side with daffodils in the foreground. (early April 'til mid-June)